

# THE OBSERVER



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SAINT JOSEPH'S COLLEGE RENSSELAER, INDIANA

## SJC LOVES THE NIGHT LIFE

by Nick Schafer

The Student Union Board (SUB) sponsors many activities on campus throughout the year; the most recent events were last Thursday, December 3, in the ballroom, where two "firsts" occurred: a Nintendo 64 tournament and an MTV Dance Party.

For the N64 Tournament, students could compete against one another in four different games: T1080 Snow Boarding, WCW Revenge, James Bond, and Mario Kart. Players were pitted against each other on two big screen T.V.'s. Winners of each game won a monetary prize of \$25.

The tournament was a big success; many students attended both to

compete and to cheer the players on. SUB faculty advisor Stacey Lazenby commented on the tournament and its importance to SJC students.

"Nintendo 64 is a really big part of many students' life here at SJC. SUB decided to have a competition for all the students who play these games so that they could have the opportunity to win cash for doing what they love to do." Lizz Musick and Jenny Keneau were the two student directors who assisted in the coordinating of the event.

Three hours after the last of the winners were announced at the N64 tournament, the ballroom was transformed into a dance hall. The same screens that held James Bond and Stone Cold Steve Austin earlier in the evening shot to life



photo by Tina Carroll

RYAN MYSAK, TINA CARROLL AND JOE MAZZUCA gather for a picture at the MTV Dance Party on December 2.

with the music videos of today's best music. The dance party was another SUB success. Many people were concerned about the dance party's success due to the fact that it was on a school night, but the SJC student body did not let the SUB board down.

Overall, the SUB night was a success. Freshman Mark Figgo commented, "The dance was awesome. I can't wait until the next one."

## SILVER BELLS ARE MAKING THEIR WAY TO SJC

by Amanda Grote

The annual Justin/Halas Christmas Dance is scheduled this year for December 11th. Keeping with

tradition, the dance has been organized by dorm governors from Halas and Justin Halls, along with a committee of student senators from the two dorms. This year's governors in charge are Amanda McKirgan of Justin Hall and Cindy Hutchison of Halas. They have chosen "Silver Bells" as this year's theme.

The annual dance used to take place in the ballroom until two years ago, when they decided to relocate to the area outside Core XI. The evening will begin at 8 P.M. and end at 1 A.M. Dress for the dance is semiformal. Dale Murphy, a local Rensselaer DJ, will provide the music. Refreshments of cookies and punch will be provided as well. In the past, the dance has had a

successful turnout and has become a fun-filled tradition

that everyone looks forward to. Said Halas governor Hutchison, "You see people you don't necessarily get to see all the time, and it's a little break from the normal on-campus activities."

The committee for the dance is in need of volunteers to help with decorations. If anyone is interested, they are to meet outside of Core XI at 11 a.m. the morning of the dance.



Tickets for this year's dance will cost \$5 for a single and \$7 per couple. Tickets can be purchased from either Hutchison in Halas 218, or from McKirgan in Justin West 328. Tickets will also be available at the door. Proceeds from ticket sales will go back to the bank to begin saving for next year's dance. McKirgan said, "The Christmas dance

has always been one of the best times of the year, so I hope a lot of people will come out this year."

### Editor's Notes

#### Saturday, December 11:

Halas/Justin Christmas Dance at 8 PM outside Core XI

#### Monday, December 13:

Campus Christmas Mass at 9 PM in the Chapel

#### Sunday, December 12:

Band Christmas Concert at 2 PM in the Ballroom

#### Thursday, December 16:

Halls close for Christmas Break

#### Sunday, January 9:

Halls reopen for Second Semester

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## "Channel of Communication"

If you are a frequent reader of *The Observer* Opinion Page you might have noticed the rising tension between *Observer* Editor-in-Chief Lisa Phillips and Senior Class President Sarah Grubb. For those of you who have no idea what I am referring to, you're not missing much.

A number of times this semester Lisa Phillips has tried contacting members of the Student Senate about the latest news from the Senate. Despite countless e-mails, no one from the Senate responded with the requested information. I completely understand where the Senate members are coming from. Maybe all of their e-mail accounts were down at the same times, thus preventing them from receiving any of Lisa's e-mails. I mean, it's not like their job is to "provide a channel of communication among students," (see page 32 of the 1998-1999 Saint Joseph's Catalog).

On this page there is a letter from Sarah Grubb who is irritated because she invited Lisa to send a reporter to a Senate meeting and no one showed up. I would be irritated too if I was in Sarah's position. Of course, speaking as an uninformed SJC student, I might have liked to attend a Senate meeting myself to see what was happening in our Student Association. Unfortunately for curious students like myself, we are forced to rely on the "channel of communication" between the Senate and *The Observer* to find out what is happening at our school. Yes, the Senate meetings are open to anyone, and I would be happy to go if I knew when they were. As for Senate elections, I noticed, after countless e-mails to the Senate, the "election" signs hanging around the campus. (At least they're making an effort.)

So what is my suggestion? Sarah and Lisa: Take all that energy from writing nasty letters about each other (which I have to waste space on my page for) and work together. I think in the next issue (or maybe even issues) of *The Observer* there should be a section devoted to the Senate: when meetings are, who the members are, and the latest Senate news. (This was what *The Observer* wanted in the first place, which started this unnecessary controversy.)

I am not trying to knock the Senate or *The Observer* in this column, I am just trying to help "provide a channel of communication among students." (Some one has to.)

Maura Giles, Opinion Editor

## Habitat Demonstrates Humanity

I would like to take just a minute of your valuable time to tell you of an extraordinary experience. The weekend of the 20th, I found myself with time on my hands. I drove over to Rocky Mount, NC to help the local Habitat for Humanity Chapter renovate some houses that had been damaged by Hurricane Floyd. On Sunday I worked alone but was pleasantly surprised on Monday morning to find a bus load of helpers from SJC had arrived. I may have felt a twinge of chauvinism when I saw that the group was about 85% female. However, that twinge was quickly dispelled when I saw the eagerness of these folks to do any task.

I somehow found myself in charge, possibly because of my gray beard. These students made this the easiest job I have ever had. There was absolutely no whining. Several of the girls

crawled under damp, smelly houses to replace insulation. A job many people wouldn't do for money, and were still smiling and joking by Tuesday night. All of the work was hard and dirty but everyone maintained a wonderful ATTITUDE!

Of course, that is what it is all about, ATTITUDE! You folks at SJC must be doing something right and be very proud of it. This entire group had a positive attitude. What a great credit to your institution. The Templeton Guide is absolutely correct. You are preparing the kind of adults this country will need in the new millennium.

I want to offer a special thanks to Professors Fred Berger and Sally Nesselrode for their selfless attention to Habitat for Humanity and their students.

Don Besse,  
N.C. resident

## A Word from the Senate

This letter is addressing the "Letter From the Editor" in the November 11, 1999 issue of the *Observer*.

First of all, I believe that Lisa Phillips wrote a very poor and improper article about our student senate. Perhaps there is not a law that states a reporter must receive permission to print "e-mail" responses in the newspaper, but would it be proper etiquette to practice this? After all, I would have given my full permission to print my response, in full text. I strongly feel that I was misrepresented and now I am writing to defend myself as well as our student senate.

In response to the "press conferences" and "public relations person" that Lisa suggested for our SJC senate, the only thing that I can say is that I personally invited Lisa to send a representative to our next meeting. Surprisingly, there was NOT an *Observer* representative there. For future reference, please refrain from requesting the senate's cooperation when indeed you have failed to cooperate in return. In addition, there is not a need for a public relations representative in the SJC senate. Every person on campus can easily have access to our names, meeting schedule, ect... If you would ask politely, I can guarantee that you would get a polite response in return.

I would also like to respond to: "I'm guessing that nobody in the SJC sen-

ate is busier than the president of the college." This is a very outrageous statement. Isn't it the president's job to respond to students, faculty, ect...? Or, perhaps his secretary aids him in his business. I can assure everyone that several members of the SJC senate are just as busy as the president, if not busier. It is very difficult to juggle 18 credit hours, varsity sports, clubs, in addition to countless meetings and projects. The senate is composed of some of SJC's finest and most active students.

I do agree with Lisa, to a certain extent, that elections need to be publicized more. However, it is important to remember that this is a very small campus and campaigning can be as simple as one poster and the word of mouth. Perhaps in the future the *Observer* can politely request the senate's cooperation and cover elections in the paper.

I can assure every SJC student that you are represented extremely well in the senate. We have very dedicated, intelligent, and hard working students that compose the senate. The senate does go unrecognized for their hard work for the betterment of the SJC community.

Sincerely,

Sarah Grubb  
Senior Class President

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**Letters to the Editor:** Letters to the Editor are not only accepted but greatly encouraged. The opinion page is a forum for student issues and should have student opinions. Letters may be sent to Maura Giles, Lisa Phillips, or placed in the *Observer* mailboxes, located on 2nd floor Core or 3rd floor Halleck Center.

Letters should be between 350 and 500 words. *The Observer* reserves the right to edit length.

Pseudonyms are accepted but discouraged. Regardless, all submissions should be signed and include a valid telephone number.

*The Observer* also reserves the right not to print letters found to violate applicable policies.



## CAMPUS CHRISTMAS: A TIME OF CELEBRATION

by Sharra Robertson

The first semester of the 1999-2000 school year is drawing to a close. Finals are fast approaching, and right behind them are the Christmas festivities on campus. The festivities started with a Reconciliation Service on the first of the month, and will conclude with the Campus Christmas Mass on December 13.

On Wednesday, December 1, the reconciliation service was held in the chapel.

The service included hymns, readings from the Bible, and priests made themselves available to hear individual confessions. On December 6, there was a Unity Celebration.

"This is our time to celebrate Christmas before we go our separate ways [for break]."

-Father Jim Challancin

It included prayers from different religious denominations, personal reflections from SJC students and faculty, and singing from

both the Gospel Choir and the SJC Choir. Two ministers from town were present to

help celebrate; Marsha Smith-Wood from the Presbyterian church and Dan Earhart from the Bethany Free Church. Father Jim said that the celebration was "a good opportunity to learn more about different denominations."

Wednesday, December 8 was the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, and there were masses at different times throughout the day. On that following Sunday at 10 PM, there will be a Chapel Decorating Party, coordinated by Sarah Morningstar. The Christmas trees will be put up, along with the Christmas Crib. Everyone is invited to stay after mass to help out.

There is also a Giving Tree; students and faculty are encouraged to take one of the tags

on the tree and by a gift for a needy child. Gifts need to be wrapped and will be excepted any time. Any questions can be directed to either Father Jim or Megan Taylor.

The actual Christmas Mass will be held in the Chapel on December 13 at 9:00 P.M., which everyone is encouraged to attend. Maura Giles is putting together a Living Nativity for the service. Father Jim encourages everyone to attend in the celebration of Advent and Christmas. "This is our opportunity to celebrate Christmas before we go our separate ways [for break]," he said.

## KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR- MILLNENIUM STYLE

by Bree Ma'Ayeh

In honor of the Jubilee taking place on Christmas Day, Pope John Paul II is encouraging every Catholic Church to take part in a celebration of faith and seal the front door to their church. The closing off of the door isn't as important as the opening of it at midnight mass on Christmas Eve.

The symbolism?

"The opening of the door represents people opening up their hearts to Christ," said Father Jim Challancin, the man behind the event at SJC.

The tradition of celebrating the Jubilee first took place 1423 at the Lateran in Rome as a way for people to renew their faith in God. Since then, it is celebrated every 25 years. This year is more significant than the others, which will bring us into the new

millenium. In light of Y2K and "The World-Is-Going-To-End" fears, the sealing and opening of the church door is a visual tool to help show people that God is with us and that He wants the world to open its heart to Him.

Since students will be away for Christmas Break during Jubilee, the SJC Chapel door will be opened on Monday, January 31. Pastors in town will be there to assist with the event. Father Jim is already pleased with

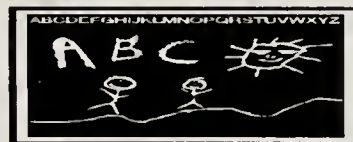
the results thus far.

"I didn't realize the full effect of [the sealing of the door] until we did it....People are capturing the spirit of the Jubilee. I'm pleasantly surprised....I hope when we open it, people come out for the event and will be touched by it," he said earnestly.



## WHAT STUDENTS ARE THINKING ABOUT BEFORE FINALS

by Maura Giles



- 10 days before finals:** Finals? Are you crazy!? I have three research papers due this week that I haven't started!
- 9 days before finals:** I can skip Core Lecture tomorrow. It's not like we're going to do anything anyway.
- 8 days before finals:** I really need a topic for my paper that's due tomorrow.
- 7 days before finals:** I would study now since I have nothing to do, but I'd just forget it anyway.
- 6 days before finals:** Finals? Are you crazy!? I have three research papers due this week that I haven't started!
- 5 days before finals:** I could study... but there's a "Saved by the Bell" marathon on!
- 4 days before finals:** Is it Christmas Break yet?
- 3 days before finals:** I can't study on an empty stomach. Let's go to "Grandma's!"
- 2 days before finals:** I probably shouldn't have put studying off so much. I should study now... but I'm sooo tired.
- 1 day before finals:** I'll just get up early tomorrow and study before my finals.
- The day of finals:** What time is my Core final again? I can't believe I slept through the alarm!
- The day after finals:** Man! Professor \_\_\_\_\_ is a jerk!

## SENATE SNIPPET

by Lisa Phillips

SJC's student senate decided, in it's final meeting of the semester, to increase the Student Activities fees by \$10. The proposal, made by the Student Union Board, began as a request for a \$15 addition, which would have easily allowed SUB to sponsor one event every weekend, but SUB treasurer elect Heather Hagan seems satisfied with the increase. "We'll still be able to have events most weekends."

SUB's goal is to keep more students on campus during the weekends. Instead of going home or drinking, students will have an opportunity to be involved in SUB sponsored events. Hagan presented a mock schedule to the senate, showing that the additional funds would significantly increase the number of events SUB could sponsor. The fee will go into affect in the fall of 2000.

### 'Tis the Season to Volunteer

The Gallagher Charitable Society is looking for volunteers for our 21st annual Christmas Party on December 11 @ 10 A.M. Anyone wanting to volunteer e-mail Adam Smith at asd2311@saintjoe.edu. We also are looking for donations to help purchase new toys for the 198 underprivileged children in the area who are attending the party. If you would like to help with a donation (a new toy or money) please e-mail Tim Clark tce2558@saintjoe.edu for more information.



# SJC: Building character for the future

**Core  
program  
recognized  
for its  
strength  
in  
character  
development**

— by Melinda Burdan —

SJC's renowned Core program has received yet another distinguished honor. The College and its Core program were recently named in *The Templeton Guide: Colleges that Encourage Character Development* for their outstanding success in the development of student character.

*The Templeton Guide* is a book that is used primarily by secondary education facilities and parents of students, yet many colleges also look to the book as a way to increase their participation in the qualities that the book highlights. *The Templeton Guide* recognizes schools that have demonstrated noteworthy achievements in ten categories. These categories are: first year programs, academic honesty programs, faculty and curriculum pro-

grams, volunteer service programs, substance abuse prevention, student leaders programs, spiritual growth programs, civic education programs, character and sexuality programs, and senior year programs.

The Templeton Foundation felt that SJC's Core program would qualify for recognition in the area of faculty and curriculum programs. Therefore, they contacted SJC to make the college

aware of the possibilities that awaited it. After receiving the Foundation's letters, Fr. Tim McFarland and other administrators decided to facilitate SJC's inclusion in the program.

Because the Foundation thought that some exceptional programs might not receive or return the information packets they had sent out, they hired Dr. Jon Dalton and the Institute of College Student Values at Florida State University to perform a comprehensive study of many college programs. The Institute, along with the project's administration, had the job of determining the criteria for which the schools would be selected. The criteria are: purpose and division of the program, institutional resources that are used to increase the benefits of the program, virtues of civic and personal responsibility, the number of institutional leaders that are involved, the percentage of students that are impacted by the program, and

other honors that have been bestowed upon the program.

The main advantage to being named in *The Templeton Guide* is the amount of publicity that the college will receive because SJC has been named as a "leader in developing character." Saint Joe is hoping that when parents, students, and counselors see what SJC is doing to promote the role of student values, the students will want to come here and that

their parents will feel comfortable allowing them to come here.

Recent studies have shown that in 1968, 85% of American undergraduate students thought that college should help them develop a philosophy of life; however, in 1998 that number declined to less than 50%. At Saint Joe, the administrators and instructors feel that students need to continually develop their system of morals and beliefs. Through the Core program, they are hoping to promote that aspect.

"We are very proud of our Core program and its ability to help students develop the strong values that will serve them well beyond their college years," said Fr. McFarland. "Character development is a lifelong process, and we believe that colleges and universities have a very important and unique role to play. We are delighted to be among the institutions profiled in *The Templeton Guide*."

## *In Good Company...*

It is often said that you can tell a lot about a person by the company he or she keeps. If so, then SJC is in good company with the other schools recognized by *The Templeton Guide*. The following represent just a few of the more recognizable names.

Brown University  
Cornell University  
DePaul University  
Duke University  
Florida State University  
Indiana University  
Michigan State University

Northwestern University  
Princeton University  
Purdue University  
Vanderbilt University  
Notre Dame University  
Xavier University  
Yale University

## Tutoring program provides much needed service

— by Amy Buckbee —

Most students have seen the tutoring board as they enter and exit the cafeteria each day; however, many do not realize the valuable service that lies at their fingertips. For those in need of assistance, SJC's student tutors provide a much needed service to the school and community.

The tutoring board supplies students with the names of SJC's tutors, what subjects they tutor, and how to go about contacting them. According to tutoring coordinator Kim Gabryel, there are fifty tutors overall, with roughly twenty to thirty of these being active tutors. The non-active tutors are available to provide assistance when needed, but are not called on to tutor on a regular basis.

Tutors are available in basically every subject, and professors in that particular subject recommend the tutors. The tutors are paid by the counseling services so that the students who need tutors do not have to pay for their assistance. In order to obtain a tutor, students should contact the tutor using the information provided on the tutoring board. The student and the tutor then set up a time that is convenient for both individuals.

"The tutoring program has really benefited a lot

of students," said Gabryel. "The tutors have been able to share their expertise with the tutees, which in turn gives the tutees a better grasp on their school work."

Not only do SJC students benefit from the services provided by the tutors, but the community benefits as well. Members of the community often contact counseling services in order to obtain an SJC tutor. The tutors help them by doing anything from teaching them how to use their computers to tutoring the elementary students. The tutors and

tutees benefit from the experience not only by getting help but by seeing how to help other people and maybe making a new friend.

**"The tutors have been able to share their expertise with the tutees, which in turn gives the tutees a better grasp on their school work."**

— Kim Gabryel



## Spotlight on...Andrea Batista

by Heather Hagan

If you haven't seen her around campus . . . you will. Andrea Batista is arguably one of the busiest and most active students at SJC.

A senior political science major from Portage, Indiana, Batista is involved in a number of activities on campus. The most time-consuming of these activities is her position as SUB Director. Batista joined SUB during her sophomore year. She quickly ascended through the ranks, spending time as treasurer and finally landing the director spot second semester of her junior year.

Batista has faced many challenges during her time on SUB, not the least of which is trying to keep the group united and working together productively.

"It's hard to have an idea of what everyone needs to do when they come to you with questions," Batista commented. "It's also hard because I'm ultimately held accountable for everyone else's mistakes. Even if something happens that I was not directly responsible for, it comes back on me as SUB Director."

But even with the challenges and the demands it places on her schedule, Batista says that her time on SUB has been a valuable experience.

"It has given me an appreciation for all the work that goes into planning an event and bringing a performer to campus. And even if a certain event doesn't turn out the way we had hoped, it has given me an appreciation for the teamwork that goes into it," Batista said.

The end of the semester will be the end of Batista's term as SUB Director. However, she will still have much to occupy her time. Along with her participation in SUB and

her normal day-to-day classwork, Batista also has many other responsibilities on campus. She is an RA, a member of the Student Life Committee and is the advertising co-chair for MSU. Juggling all of these activities has required Batista to step up her time management skills.

"Time management has definitely been a challenge," she said. "I've had to learn how to prioritize all my activities and my schoolwork. Unfortunately, there are some times when everything is equally demanding."

After graduation, Batista plans to attend law school . . . a place where time management skills will most definitely become a valuable asset.



Andrea Batista's responsibilities on campus include her position as SUB Director, RA and MSU Co-Advertising Chair, to name a few.

*Telling it like it is . . .*

## Stress: it's that time of the year

by Heather Hagan

As college students, stress is just an accepted part of our daily lives. But it seems that finals week is specifically designed to raise our levels of stress to astronomical new proportions. Just think for a moment about how insane our lives become during finals. No other human being on the planet should be expected to live like we do during this one traumatic week.

With our brains crammed full of information (which we will promptly forget two hours after taking the final), we survive on no sleep and dangerously high levels of caffeine. We walk around campus like zombies, dark circles under our eyes, baseball caps pulled down low so that no one will recognize us and see that we look death warmed over. Ask most people what they plan to do the first few days of their Christmas break and the answer will inevitably be "sleep." It is truly a wonder that we make it through finals at all, let alone with decent grades and our G.P.A.s intact.

And, as if it weren't enough that we have to endure this stress during finals week, the week before finals is typically even worse. If you didn't have at least a fifteen page research paper due this week, consider yourself lucky. Most people had far more than that.

In all seriousness, how can we be expected to start reviewing for finals when we must spend the week before exams writing papers and doing other end-of-semester assignments? This is why the proposed "Dead Week" is such a great idea. During "Dead Week" (the week before finals) students would still have to go to their classes, but professors would not be allowed to make any papers or other projects due during that time period.

This week before finals is crucial, and if students are permitted to focus more on reviewing during that time, then they will undoubtedly perform better on their final exams. In addition, this extended review will hopefully lead to greater retention of the material being studied. And isn't that the goal, after all?

Of course, it's too late for "Dead Week" this semester, so . . . the stress is on! Here's some advice I can offer you from my own personal experience: get plenty of rest, eat right and start reviewing well in advance. DO NOT under any circumstances think that you can review for a comprehensive final exam during the commercials while you watch the special Christmas episode of *Dawson's Creek* (OK, so that isn't really my personal experience. . . I don't even like that show. But you get the point.) Oh, and stay away from the caffeine . . . believe me.

## About the whole Senate thing

by Lisa Phillips

I read Maura Giles' opinion piece (page 2) with a chuckle because I agree that Sarah and I have been spinning our wheels on this whole Senate issue. But I do have a few things left to say about the whole thing. First of all, I'll get the unpleasantness out of the way; I don't have to be nice. Nobody ever said that journalists have to do their jobs nicely.

My job is to show our readers what is good and bad about SJC, sometimes that takes persistence and even a little attitude. Notice that I didn't get any responses until my opinion pieces got a little grumpy.

But I'm not writing this article to state my position concerning journalistic ethics, I'm writing to say something that will probably catch a few people by surprise: I think the Senate really has SJC's best interests at heart. Yes I think that the whole election procedure needs to be reconsidered and I would really like to actually be able to get information for the newspaper, but I think the people who are in the Senate are the real movers and shakers of the campus. They're the ones who really want to get things done, and I commend them for their efforts.

Having dealt briefly with the financial aspects and "chain of command" at Saint Joe, I realize the "frustration," as Jill Hrobsky put it at her final Senate meeting as SA president, can seem quite debilitating. I respect the representatives who keep trying in spite of unforeseen setbacks and difficulties in pursuit of their beliefs. That's what it's all about. That's what we're all here for.

### Editor's Notes

- On page 5 of the November 11 issue of *The Observer*, the Talent Show was incorrectly identified as a SUB event. It is actually sponsored by MSU, not SUB. We regret the error.

- Anyone wishing to nominate an individual to be profiled in the "Spotlight On..." series should contact Features Editor Heather Hagan at hhd2154@saintjoe.edu or at ext. 8101. Anyone interested in writing for the Features page should also contact Heather at the above e-mail or extension.



## Men's Track and Field Team Done Hunting

Pumas assume status as traditional powerhouse

By Chrissy Scafide

"I'm very excited about where the men are at so far this year," explained Bill Massoels, head men's and women's track and field coach when asked about the upcoming season. "We can control our own destiny because we're starting brand new and I think we're ready to accept the challenge and dictate what we do."

With the 2000 track and field season freshly underway, Puma tracksters are preparing for their first meet in January at Purdue University. With this in mind, it is important for the team to recognize its strengths and weaknesses and focus on the crucial elements that will make for a successful season.

Coach Massoels comments, "Coming into the season I thought our strength would be the throws and the distance and I still believe that, but I think that we're stronger than what we anticipated in the other areas. I think our jumpers did a lot of strength work over the summer which made them stronger coming in this season than when they left last year. Also, the sprinters and hurdlers have done a lot of work. We're strong enough and confident enough in all areas that if one area slips, the other one will pick up."

Even though the Puma men are strong in many areas, there is still room for some improvement. Massoels gives a bit of insight on areas of improvement by saying, "It is not necessarily anything physical. I think we possess a wealth of talent and we need to be mentally sharp. It will be

very easy to be complacent. This will probably be the first year that we will be the 'hunted' and not the 'hunters.' We're going to need to be ready to accept that challenge."

Senior distance captain Clark Teuscher

agrees with Massoels on the issue of mental toughness.

"I think the physical aspects of training and competing will take care of themselves because our philosophies on what we need to do in practice are time tested and they work. What I feel will make or break the season is whether a commitment to success and a winning attitude is displayed in everyone on the team, from the captains down to the newcomers.

"Since the bulk of the teams we compete against will be just as talented as we are, the willingness to do the little things will be the biggest difference."

Some newcomers that will play a major role in taking on the challenges of the new season are Jeremy Freel, a thrower, sprinter James Perkins and hurdler Jason Johnson. Also, a slew of distance



Practice, held in the Richard F. Scharf Alumni Field House, helps maintain a physical edge while increasing the team's mental focus and providing a forum to "push yourself to new levels," says junior throwing captain Joe Koczan.

runners including Jeff Barker, Kevin Moeller, Tony Honiotes and Brett Heinz will help to make a significant impact for the Pumas.

Overall, the Puma men must possess teamwork, dedication and mental toughness to be successful this season.

Junior throwing captain Joe Koczan concludes, "Success is a product of hard work and dedication. Our success will be a product of the time and effort we put forth during practice everyday.

"Basically, it is imperative that we push each other day in and day out to get better. That is the basic idea of teamwork, we are at practice everyday, pushing ourselves to the limit and being encouraged by our teammates to do so. You have to be mentally strong to go to practice everyday knowing that you are going to push yourself to new levels."

## Unhealthy Lady Pumas have loads of potential

by Clark Teuscher

With the women's indoor track and field season set to begin January 14<sup>th</sup>, Puma head coach Bill Massoels envisions a couple of obstacles to his team's success. The goals of two Great Lakes Valley Conference championships and being ranked in the national top 15 all year will depend on the overcoming of these.

According to Massoels, the first of these is "Staying healthy. We're not right now." Injuries to key performers in all disciplines of track and field have hit the Lady Pumas hard in the first few weeks of practice. Massoels does anticipate most of them being able to compete by the time the important meets are held.

The other figurative hurdle will require

more than recovery time. "What needs to happen is we need to stay mentally sharp," states Massoels. Having been nationally ranked in every poll each of the past six seasons, Saint Joseph's has become a marked team by its competition. Massoels continues, "This is the first time we've become the hunted. We have to be ready for everyone to attack us."

To do this, the Lady Pumas will depend on the leadership of their top returnees. Among those are hurdler Dana Collins, who last season qualified for the NCAA Division II National Championships. Some of the others who are back are throwers Becky Garza and Kim Noon, sprinters Shannon Kline and Chrissy Scafide, jumper Jill Hrobosky, hurdler Jamie Marshall and distance runner Sarah

Grubb.

In addition to the returning athletes, several newcomers are set to add depth and energy to the team. Heading the list are hurdlers Julia Myers and Melissa Kleinmaus, as well as distance runners Maria Toledo and Dani and Darci Ramirez.

Massoels feels that when looking at the team as a whole, "Our strongest area is our throws. We have two juniors and a senior coming back. The other four areas (hurdles, sprints, jumps and distance) are right behind, though."

The women's season begins at Purdue University, with the GLVC Indoor Meet at Lewis on March 4<sup>th</sup> and the Outdoor Meet at Indianapolis on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.



## Upcoming SJC Athletic Events

Tuesday, December 7th  
Men's Basketball vs. Grace Bible College.  
7pm

Saturday, December 11th  
Men's Basketball at Ferris State, 2pm  
Women's Basketball at Purdue-Calumet,  
2pm

Saturday, December 18th  
Women's Basketball at IPFW, 1pm

Monday, December 20th  
Men's Basketball at Chicago State,  
7:35pm

Wednesday, December 22nd  
Men's Basketball vs. Chaminade, 7pm

Monday, January 3rd  
Men's Basketball vs. Grand Valley, 7pm

## Hupfer ready for the big time

### Star forward not ready for hardcourt career to end

by Matt Stout

As the women's basketball team embarks on their season, much of the excitement is surrounding its star forward, Angie Hupfer. Hupfer led the nation in scoring in all divisions of the NCAA, and was named the NCAA Division II pre-season Player of the Year.

Her goals for this season are focused and simple. "I led the nation in scoring last year and it would be nice to do that again. I was also named Division II pre-season player of the year, and it would be nice to get that," said Hupfer. Accomplishing these goals just might lead to the realization of a dream, which so many young women have when they take up the game of basketball. "The WNBA has contacted coach about stuff. Hopefully I'll get a tryout at least. If not that, then overseas somewhere," said Hupfer.

This season will be the culmination of four years of hard work and dedication for Angie. Over the years Hupfer has come to love the relationships she has formed with her teammates. "This year we have six seniors and I've been with them all four years. Our team's really close. We love



Angie Hupfer, forward for the SJC Lady Pumas, is an outstanding athlete who plans to go places.

each other," said Hupfer. In addition to the friends she has made, Angie has picked up quite a few accolades along the way. Last season she was named to several all-American teams and was named the GLVC's player of the year. "It's just kind of nuts. It's not something I expected to happen coming into play."

With much of the season left to play, Angie will be looking to help the team stay afloat in the conference rankings. The Puma women's basketball team is currently 2-4, after snapping a three game losing streak this past Saturday against the University of Southern Indiana.

## Lady Luck not with Lady Pumas

### Tiebreaker pits volleyballers against powerhouse Norse

by Tommy Weaver

Losing a tiebreaker can mean a lot in this world and for the Saint Joseph's volleyball team it cost them the luck of the draw and their season. The Pumas were put in as the fourth seed in their division and stuck playing the #3 team in the country, Northern Kentucky.

Northern Kentucky put the Pumas out in the first round of the Great Lake Valley Conference Tournament beating them 15-13, 15-11, and 15-4. Sophomore Beth Hollenbeck who had a team high with 8 kills and 2 blocks led the Pumas. Beth also got help from teammates Julie Ryan and Jill Stevens, who also had 2 blocks apiece. Katie Conlon continued her great play by dishing out 10 assists. Traci Wall also stepped up her play and contributed with 16 digs.

On the season the Pumas finished 19-11 overall and 8-8 in the conference, fourth in their division.

The Pumas had a few conference leaders and even a Player of the Week. Player of the Week

Honors went to Freshman Julie Ryan the week of October 4<sup>th</sup>.

League Leaders this year were Julie Ryan, second in hitting percentage with a .361 and third in blocks with 1.15 average per game. Other conference leaders were Katie Carrol, sixth in digs at 3.90 per game, and Traci Wall, ninth in digs at 3.83 per game.

This year's team had great balance with different players leading in different categories. Katie Carrol in digs with 421, Julie Ryan in blocks with 125, Katie Conlon in assists with 630, and Traci Wall in kills with 343.

With the team only losing three seniors, Kari Puzauskas, Melissa Grier, and Jill Stevens, and a good young nucleus returning, this team will be a force these next few years to come.

With the team only losing three seniors, Kari Puzauskas, Melissa Grier, and Jill Stevens, and a good young nucleus returning, this team will be a force these next few years to come.

## Athletic Shorts

by Clark Teuscher

-The men's basketball season got underway November 19<sup>th</sup> vs. IU-South Bend. The Pumas won 114-104 and have since dropped three straight decisions to stand currently at a record of 1-3. Jonathon George is leading the GLVC in field goal percentage (73.9%), Matt Metzger is first in assists (7.25) and Romano Dees is second in scoring at 19.8 points per game.

-The women's basketball team is 2-4 and 1-1 in the GLVC. The wins came against Northwood and Southern Indiana. Angie Hupfer is currently leading the conference in scoring and rebounding, putting up 24.5 points and 10.7 rebounds per contest. Laura Mullikin is second on the team with 11.7 points per game.

## Oops!

In last issue the volleyball photo of Sophomore Kati Conlon was actually taken by Sean Egan, not Charles Martin.



## At the Movies with Don:

### AN END TO LAUGHABLE SCHWARZENEGGER MOVIES

By  
Donald Shanahan

Finally Observer readers, after a two-and-a-half year hiatus since his last movie, the Terminator is back. Yes, Arnold Schwarzenegger returns to the big screen, but radically different this time around in the supernatural thriller *End of Days*. The basic premise is simple. It's 'Ahnuld' versus Satan. Like any blockbuster though, there are some twists to go with the slugfest special effects.

Twenty years ago, in 1979, a child the church has feared for centuries, named Christine, is born in New York City. Marked with the sign of the devil, she is unknowingly destined to be Satan's human bride. Should Satan consummate a child during the last hour before the new millennium the gates of hell will open and engulf the planet.

Fast forward to December 1999 where we meet Jericho Cane (Schwarzenegger), a widowed, burned out, and alcoholic ex-cop who runs a security detail for executives. He goes about his work oblivious to the coming apocalypse until a failed assassination plot by a priest on his detail leads him to a now grown up Christine (*The Craft*'s Robin Tunney). As it turns out, the executive he was protecting (the outstanding Gabriel Byrne of *The Usual Suspects* and *The Man in the Iron Mask*) is Satan in human form. Like a page out of *Devil's Advocate*, the Devil walks the earth as a suave, silver-tongued seducer. Jericho, determined to protect Christine, investigates

deeper into the church's plot to stop the apocalypse only to run into Satan himself. Alone and against the wall, Jericho must stop the Devil and protect Christine.

*End of Days* is a very different kind of movie and set up for Arnold. Most of his movies are the date-friendly, preposterous popcorn blockbuster variety like *True Lies* and *Eraser* where he defies all laws of man and realism. This one is grim and gritty. His last movie role, the laughably bad Mr. Freeze in *Batman and Robin*, might be some of the worst acting ever. Arnold, for once, is flawed, an aspect of the movie which sold it for me. Instead of an unbeatable killing machine or secret agent, he plays a bitter drunk who doesn't always save the day. Believe it or not, he even loses a fight and gets his ass kicked! His character strives to be the usual Arnold and beat the Devil with guns and ammo, but realizes it will take something stronger than bullets to defeat the Anti-christ: faith in God.

The well-timed *End of Days*, despite being an action thriller, carries a deep emphasis on losing and coming back into faithful religion. Although I am not much of a church patron, I was impressed with its attention to faith, especially from Schwarzenegger. *End of Days* really was an unexpectedly good and thrilling movie. You will look at Schwarzenegger, and maybe yourself, in an entirely different way.

### Parody of "42" from *Shadowing the Ground*

by David Ignatow

We are a young couple  
In a dorm room surrounded  
By the noise of fellow college buddies in the hallway,  
Left to ourselves for a moment to do with our lives as  
we wish  
In the insecurity of our ever changing persons,  
To act as we will because we are young--free  
And spontaneous towards each other,  
Starting our lives and not realizing our wish until old age,  
Lying in your bed, holding each other tight in this dorm  
room.

~Christine Scafile

### The Walk

reprinted from *Measure '99*

To take a walk  
Down memory lane  
May leave you with  
Too much pain;  
However, I am here  
To lend an ear.  
So let us begin the walk  
So, you can talk  
And I can hear

~ Amy Black

## The Madrigal Dinner

Eating has never been this much fun...

by Lisa Phillips

I've got to tell you, if you missed the Madrigal dinner on Saturday, December 7, you missed a really good time! The evening took participants back in time to the era of jesters and kings, complete with an authentic dinner, and entertainment; roaming singers, an outstanding chorus and even recitations and a beggar thrown in for good measure. The evening added a fresh twist by including the audience as guests of the king at a banquet to find a husband for the notoriously unmarriageable Princess Samantha. The whiny princess, played by newcomer Wendy Sidener, was comical and clever.

King Christopher, played by Roger Burns, switches places with his royal wizard, Master X, a role made for Christopher Gibson, in order to see Samantha as she truly is and win her hand. Burns' portrayal was diverse, witty and quite gallant, while Gibson pulled an utterly comic performance from his bag of tricks.

The jester, played by Shawn Roser, kept the action going and bounced through the crowd, providing energy and fun throughout the meal, marking one of Roser's most physically challenging, not to mention colorful, roles.

The evil queen, stepmother to Samantha, played by Megan Bodnar and her daughter, played by Mary Fortman, who were secretly poisoning the king, oozed obnoxiousness. The King, played by Professor John Nichols, was utterly spontaneous comic relief, made even more humorous by our knowledge of the actor.

Wenches served the unusual and unmistakable dinner, which was eaten with wooden spoons. Let me tell you, as I started the salad I realized that the fork is quite a wonderful invention and that a wooden spoon just doesn't cut it.

Overall however, two outstanding factors impressed me the most. First of all, the hauntingly beautiful voices of the chorus, which so far passed my expectations that I was awestruck. Special congrats go out the Madrigal Singers: Chris Campbell, Wendy Charlesworth, Courtney Coe, David Delauro, Amanda Goins, Jeremy Hoy, Sara Reasoner, Luke Schafer, and Julia Woodcock. And, secondly, that the whole production was the project of senior communications major Sara Reasoner.

The theatre department has never, as far as I know, attempted such a complicated and complete evening of entertainment, and it amazes me that Reasoner not only pulled it off with an amazing turnout and a fabulous performance, but did so in such a seamless and seemingly effortless way. I have to concur with her statement at the end of the performance, "I hope I get an A."